

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CAS , PE, SHUM

SUBJECT: NEW PRESIDENT OF PERUVIAN SUPREME COURT

SUPPORTS U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE

1. DURING COURTESY CALL BY AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS MARCH 25, DR. JOSE SAMANEZ CONCHA, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE PERUVIAN SUPREME COURT, EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION AND COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR USG'S FORTHRIGHT WORLD-WIDE POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. SAMANEZ ALSO ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WILL WORK TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE PERUVIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM, THEREBY ACCELERATING THE PROCESSING OF PENDING CASES, INCLUDING THOSE OF U.S. PRISONERS.

2. SAMANEZ EXPLAINED THE CONSIDERABLE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS ON THE JUDICIAL BRANCH WHICH HAVE LIEF IT WITH INADEQUATE SALARIES AND INSUFFICIENT JUDGES AND TRIBUNALS TO KEEP UP WITH THE GROWING CASELOADS. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE JUDICIARY'S BUDGET HAVE RECENTLY BEEN APPROVED, AND THAT THIS WILL PROVIDE SOME RELIEF FROM THESE PROBLEMS.

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3. AMBASSADOR TOOK OCCASION OF CALL TO RAISE SEVERAL SPECIFIC PENDING CASES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS, INCLUDING THOSE OF DONALD CONKLIN AND ROBERT ABRAHAM (BOTH DUE TO COME BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT IN THE NEAR FUTURE). AMBASSADOR MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN THESE AND OTHER CASES THE EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND TO INTERVENE IN THE PERUVIAN JUDICIAL PROCESS, BUT THAT WE MAKE INQUIRIES FROM TIME TO

TIME TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS IN INDIVIDUAL CASES AND WITH THE HOPE OF ENCOURAGING SPEEDIER RESOLUTION OF PENDING CASES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PERUVIAN LAW. DR. SAMANEZ WAS VERY RESPONSIBLE TO THIS APPROACH, AND OFFERED HIS FULLEST COOPERATION. HE TOOK THE NAMES OF THE TWO MEN AND PROMISED TO FOLLOW UP.

4. DR. SAMANEZ EXPRESSED HIS GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE BEING RENDERED TO THE SUPREME COURT BY THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION THROUGH ITS PILOT PROGRAM TO DESIGN APPROPRIATE TEACHING MATERIALS AND METHODS WHICH REFLECT CURRENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REALITIES FOR TRAINING JUDGES THROUGHOUT PERU. HE ALSO SPOKE OF HIS ADMIRATION FOR IMPORTANT RESEARCH NOW UNDERWAY IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE ON THE SOCIO-POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT FOR JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION AND REFORM, AND EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN RECEIVING BOOKS FROM THE UNITED STATES ON SUCH TOPICS IN EITHER ENGLISH OR SPANISH. EMBASSY/USIS WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR DR. SAMANEZ AND TO ASSIST HIM IN OBTAINING SELECTED TITLES. DEAN

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